Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Ann Bethany Beach Conference

December 5, 2016

Mike Farrar called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM in Delaney Hall. He thanked us all for carrying on in his absence. Some people live their lives and take time out to volunteer. Some people volunteer and take time out to lead their lives – watch these people.

Deacon Jack Freebery led us in opening prayer. He described Vincentian spirituality as getting closer to God and compassionate interest, then gave us a Gospel reflection on St. John the Baptist and God’s providence.

**New members**: Barbara Knightly, Connie Ryan, and Robert Landolt were introduced as new members. We also welcomed back Fr. Klevence from the shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

**Minutes:** Only a portion of the membership received the November 2016 minutes; their approval is pending.

**Treasurer**: Eileen Mulaney reported that Mary Ellen Gonski has completed the Annual Report for SVDP National.

Our current Conference balance is $28,000: $13,000 taken in, $2,000 spent. The VIC dance brought in $6,000; $3500 came from Tish Galu’s appeal at all the Mass at St. Ann and Our Lady of Guadalupe (including one check for $1,000). $2,000, left over from the original Eagle Scout garden project done by Mary Ellen’s son, was donated by Fr. Klevence; $1200 in anonymous donations; $1500 in envelopes; Based on last year’s figures, our expenses should average $1,000 a week during winter.

We are starting to get in-kind donations, including garden boards from Jayne’s Reliables, and food from the Delmarvelous Quilters. We need a way to dollar-value them and improve the acknowledgement process. Currently, Sue Clarke handles receipts, and Marilyn Janus, thank you notes. Deacon Jack said we should acknowledge the choir mini-concert whose collection went toward the conference.

Mary Ellen reported that we need to track family size in our team reports. Ron Forgnoni, John Traina and Bill Clarke all said family size is on Food Pantry tracking forms. We just need to emphasize it for Treasury tracking.

**Spiritual Enrichment**: Mary Ann Conlon has a lead on a speaker for our Day of Reflection, Father John Lane, a Vincentian out of Philadelphia. She will call him after today’s meeting.

**For the next meeting: Mike asked her to bring several dates between April 16 - May** 19.

Should it be on a weekend or a weekday? Just for Conference members or open to all? In Delaney Hall or in church? Fr. Klevence said we shouldn’t wait, but pin down a date now before the church calendar fills up. Dan DiLuzio could broadcast a list of available dates.

Deacon Jack has spoken with long-time SVDP member Paul Collins about Vincentian spirituality.

**For the next meeting: Mike asked if he could address us.**

**Extended Care:** Deacon Jackmadea follow-up call to a client needing help with an electric bill last month. Del Marva has put her on a budget plan. He may refer her to the Follow-up Team to take a look at her bills. He and Tish went through the entire client list and identified 47 people who need a follow-up call. It’s been over 6 months since we dealt with any of them. He and Team 4 will try to identify dire need. Mary Ellen said we have to record them for treasury reporting. Mike asked who is on the Follow-up Team (Ron, Jackie Boyd, Myra Stock, Tish and Deacon Jack.) Ron asked where the data is for follow-up calls. Myra said there’s a check box on the Client Interview form. Deacon Jack emphasized it is a simple phone call and not to be anxious.

**Giving Tree**: Eileen Quigley reported that all the cards have been picked up to help 50 families with 3-4 kids. Deadline for gift drop-off is December 11 in Masterson Center. Mid-morning on December 16, we need someone with a truck or van to deliver gifts to Pyle Center. Mike asked what % were gifts and what % food cards. (Two gifts for each child and food card from Food Lion or Wal-Mart depending on size of family.) A clothing card was added from Wal-Mart or Old Navy. No funds came from the conference; everything was donated by parishioners.

**Wreath Sale**: Bill Clarke reported 235 volunteer hours were logged over 3 days. About 35 wreaths are left; we need to remove them Delaney Hall by Thursday. If we sell all of them, we will realize $2600. Lowe’s donated a lot of product. Mary Ellen said fundraisers are a separate category on the Annual Report, and we just need to report our profit and volunteer hours.

**Team Reports:**

**Team 1:** Jim O’Brienreported 26 bags for 13 families, 1 bag for a single man, 4 bags from the miscellaneous table. Inventoried everything from the food bins at SA and OLG.

**Team 2**: Dan Quigley reported 1 out of area call. FP was closed on Thanksgiving Day.

**Team 3**: 16 families, 32 bags (6 from Home Visits)

Mike said his friend in Easton has a pallet of bags. John said he can probably take most of them. Jim Kuczinski will store them the rest in his garage.

We have a new phone, which is Ron’s old phone. Sue Clarke can help train us. Mary Ellen said we need an in-kind donation value. Sue Cutter asked who hands the phone off if the team leader is gone.

Dan DiLuzio said when he sends out a mass e-mail, it is FYI and to please not respond to him.

Meeting was adjourned at 11 AM.

**Next monthly meeting is Monday, January 9, 2017, 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall.**

Marilyn Janus

Conference Secretary